

MUSC FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

May 8, 2018, 7:45-9:00 am
Gazes Auditorium, Room 125
Strom Thurmond Building

1. Call to Order (*Adam Smolka, President*) at 7:50 am.
2. Quorum established
 - April 10, 2018 minutes approved without objection.
3. President's Report
 - Reminder of commencement on Saturday May 19th, all faculty are encouraged to attend to support graduates and their families.
 - Concern voiced (as an individual faculty member) to the MUSC President and Provost regarding the Bill Cosby verdict and his honorary degree awarded by MUSC in 1999; both the Provost and President share this concern and have referred it to the MUSC Board of Trustees (BOT) which is empowered to both award and revoke honorary degrees.
 - Faculty Handbook approved at April BOT meeting; not posted yet pending some minor formatting changes, working to get that done ASAP.
 - Honor code approved by BOT, going into effect July 1st.
 - Senior Leadership Evaluations closed last night; Provost will be providing report of aggregated results to the Faculty Senate at September Faculty meeting.
 - The Faculty Senate bank account currently has a balance of \$7,200.
4. Electoral Unit Reports
 - Academic Affairs Faculty (*Jean Gudenas*): Nothing to report.
 - Dental Medicine (*Raymond Kessler*): Search for Oral Science Chair is ongoing. Junior faculty being provided workshop on how to start research projects and presentations.
 - Health Professions (*David Fitzgerald*): Newly-appointed Dean Zoher Kapasi started May 1st; gratitude expressed to Dr. Zoller, Interim Dean, for his service to the College.
 - Medicine: Basic Science (*Kristi Helke*): New compensation plan being rolled out; will affect 200 faculty who do not generate RVUs; applies only to regular ranks faculty; will be implemented in FY19 without any changes in salary, allowing faculty to assess potential impact of new plan; financial impact will be felt in FY20.
 - Medicine: Clinical Science (*Lynn Schnapp*): Absent, no report.
 - Nursing (*Melanie Cason*): Absent; report provided by This week is Nurses' Week; be sure to recognize your fellow nurses! Newly-appointed Dean Linda Weglicki is starting June 1st. Outgoing Dean Dr. Gail Stuart retires June 30th and will provide orientation to new Dean during June.
 - Pharmacy (*Sherine Chan*): COP Dean has been advocating for COP space in the new campus building; positive outcomes noted; asked by senior leadership to provide summary of lab and office space needed in new building and a copy of the COP Strategic Plan for consideration; discussions continue going forward.

5. Committee Reports

- Governance (*Michelle Nichols*): Absent; Senators requested to submit nominations for Senate Officers; election is scheduled for the July Senate meeting
- Communication and Education (*Titus Reaves*): Planning next Town Hall; three current suggestions include an update on *Imagine 2020*; a *Meet the Deans* panel, and Gun Violence. Senators are asked to consider implementation of one of these and/or submit other potential topics to Titus Reaves.
- Faculty and Institutional Relations (*Kristi Helke*): As stated in President's Report, Faculty Handbook was approved by BOT and FIR is working on formatting the document before posting it. Latest draft of the Affiliate Faculty policy will be submitted to the BOT on May 18th. The most recent edit is the inclusion of information clarifying that this policy does not interfere with the continued appointment (and designation) of AHEC faculty. This draft will be forwarded to Senators today with request for comment by Wednesday May 9th.
- Institutional Advancement (*James McElligott*): Absent, no report.

6. Current business (*Adam Smolka*)

- Senate resolution on gun violence: The Executive Committee requests that the following resolution relating to gun violence be considered for approval by the Faculty Senate:

"Given its mission to represent the views, needs, and interests of faculty in MUSC's educational, research, and service programs, the Faculty Senate affirms that gun violence is a public health problem of the highest priority. As health professionals in an academic medical center, we face the consequences of gun violence daily, and the Faculty Senate is committed to active partnership with community initiatives to curb this epidemic through education, research, mental health treatment, victim support and advocacy."

- The resolution empowers the Senate and MUSC faculty to have a productive voice, consistent with the Senate's mission, in raising campus and community awareness of the consequences of gun violence. Passage of the resolution would enable planning of next steps the Senate could take to address the issue (town halls, presentations, clinical provider intervention, counseling, active shooter awareness, etc.). The resolution does not question or infringe on the right of citizens to lawfully own guns. Rather, it seeks to reduce the public health burden caused by abuses of that right by optimizing medical, legal and social interventions that have been shown to work. Some talking points provided by a local advocacy group are attached (we are not seeking formal affiliation with Arm-in-Arm SC).
- Motion: To approve the resolution (*Walter Jones*, seconded by *Jim Oates*).
- Discussion from the floor:
 - Concern by some that faculty should not be involved, that it does not affect what we do, that it's a community issue beyond the role of faculty; Faculty Senate should focus on policies and issues directly related to faculty affairs.
 - Other faculty argued that we are part of the community and we should be concerned about gun violence and its impact on the community as well as its impact on our campus and in our daily lives.
 - Concern that this is a political issue; counter argument that this is not political, no infringement of gun rights is proposed. The resolution addresses gun violence as

a public health issue and empowers the Senate to address this in some manner. Suggestion to minimize potential political import by deleting “gun”, focusing the resolution on violence in general.

- Subsidiary motion to delete the word “gun” from the resolution; no second, motion does not move forward.
- Suggestion that the Senate drafts a statement of rebuttal in the event that the resolution attracts public criticism focused on perceived opposition to the right to bear arms and ownership of personal guns.
- Vote on Motion: 36 in favor, 2 opposed, 5 abstained. Motion passes.

7. New Business

- Motion: The Faculty Senate applauds the recent appointment of Dr. William Melvin Brown, III as the first African-American male to serve on the MUSC BOT. (*McLeod Gwynette*, seconded by *James Tolley*).
- Question from the floor: What are the qualifications/strengths he brings to the BOT? Graduate of MUSC, former Navy Doctor, currently working at Trident with privileges at the VA, Charleston native, highly regarded by several current Senators.
- Vote on Motion: 41 in favor, none opposed, 2 abstentions. Motion passes.
- Tomorrow is Trauma Survivor’s Day, activities will be held in the Horseshoe; all are invited to attend and participate (*Alicia Privette*).

8. Adjourned at 8:44 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Carson, Faculty Senate Secretary.